

MINUTES OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 AT 7:30 AM IN THE FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM OF VILLAGE HALL, 1200 WILMETTE AVENUE, WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091

Members Present: Trustee Mari Terman, Chairperson
Trustee Alan Swanson
Trustee Karen Spillers

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director of Engineering Services
Jorge Cruz, P.E., Assistant Director of Engineering Services
Scott Hilts, Project Manager

Guests: None

Chairperson Terman called the meeting to order at 7:28 a.m.

1. Approval of minutes of the January 14, 2008 meeting.

Motion by: Trustee Swanson
Second: Trustee Spillers
Discussion: Correction noted in approved minutes
Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Village-wide Pavement Management Report

- Chair Terman opened the meeting by asking the Committee if they had any questions.
- Trustee Swanson asked if the pavement management software uses traffic as a criterion to evaluate pavement condition. Ms. Mayerhofer stated it is a secondary indicator if several streets are given similar condition rankings.
- Trustee Spillers asked if pavement cuts result in the premature failure of the pavement. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated that patches, especially if they are poorly done, do lead to premature failure. Trustee Swanson agreed, indicating that new joints in the pavement can cause base failure if water infiltrates. Mr. Cruz stated that our typical installation calls for concrete patches for all utility cuts.
- Trustee Spillers asked why we are not aiming to achieve 100-percent of our streets to be in a good or better category. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated that it is unrealistic to expect all of the streets to be on the same deterioration cycle and that a target of 60-70 percent or more in the good or better category is a strong goal.
- The Committee concurred that the results of the accelerated road program are very positive for the Village and should be well communicated in the Village newsletter. Chair Terman suggested including a map of the Village in

- the *Communicator* but exaggerating the street lines to make them more visible. Trustee Swanson noted much of the work is west of Ridge Road.
- Trustee Swanson also noted that for funding reasons, it is better to have roads deteriorate over a graduated period, so the Village can maintain the desired pavement condition without the need for significant spikes in funding.
 - Staff will follow up with promoting the results of this study for the next *Communicator*.

3. Sustainable Landscaping Design

- Ms. Mayerhofer introduced this item by providing background information on the petition the Village Board received in the fall of 2007, regarding a significant drainage problem in the rear yard of 937 Illinois Road. She noted that the agreed temporary solution is for the son of the owner to pump the area down after standing water accumulates. This spring, several neighbors contacted the Village again looking for assistance with addressing the drainage problem. She noted that ideally the problem should be addressed using environmentally beneficial methods rather than piping and pumping the water to the Village's system. For discussion is a proposal from Camille Stauber of Sustainable Places, Inc. to provide a long term, environmental solution to the flooding problem impacting 937 Illinois Road and the surrounding neighbors. Her approach is to work with the neighbors of 937 Illinois Road to identify improvements they can make on their properties to ultimately reduce, if not eliminate, the standing water at 937 Illinois Road.
- Ms. Mayerhofer indicated there are several options relative to how the study outlined by Ms. Stauber and ultimately the landscape changes on each property should be funded. The cost of the study and all of the recommended improvements could be funded solely by the neighbors on a voluntary basis. As an alternative, there could be public participation in the cost of the study. This demonstration project could be used as a model for other locations in Wilmette, as well as for other communities in the Chicagoland area as an example of a successful public / private relationship. In addition, a successful demonstration project could spark Village-wide public interest in the importance of environmentally sustainable design.
- Chair Terman asked if there have been any discussions with the neighbors about this concept, to which Ms. Mayerhofer indicated she briefly mentioned the opportunity for an environmental solution to a couple of the complainants and they seemed open to the idea. Chair Terman asked if they were open to paying for improvements on their property, to which Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the discussion had not gotten that far.
- The Committee discussed how many property owners would be impacted and agreed that the key to success is getting strong neighborhood support.
- Trustee Swanson noted he is skeptical about the process, but agreed that this is an appropriate location for a demonstration project. He agrees there is public benefit if the project is successful but concerned there may not be participation by the majority of the neighbors.

- Trustees Swanson and Spillers agreed that there are many other locations in Wilmette with similar problems.
- Trustee Spillers indicated she is also concerned that the Village could pay for a plan that the neighbor's aren't interested in implementing. Ms. Mayerhofer stated the study would be set up such that the services would be discontinued if after the first few tasks (through plan presentation) there is not neighbor support.
- Trustee Spillers asked if there are other people we can go to for proposals to which Trustee Swanson and Ms. Mayerhofer suggested this is a fairly unique niche.
- Trustee Spillers asked staff to verify if Camille Stauber can be the recipient of a Village contract because her husband was a member of the Urban Land Institute. Staff will verify.
- The Committee agreed that there is education involved because people need to understand that they are contributing to the problem, even though they may not be at the bottom of the hill.
- The Committee asked staff to develop the following details before voting on the proposal:
 - a) Draft a policy for a cost share program to fix neighborhood drainage problems.
 - b) Verify if Mr. Stauber's role on the ULI precludes Ms. Stauber from doing work for the Village.
 - c) Make sure the contract is structured such that it can be severed early in the process if there is not neighbor support.
 - d) Ask Ms. Stauber for a cost range of what the impacted neighbors could expect to pay for the improvements.

4. Old Business / Pending Matters

- None

Motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.